

Remarks

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 5-7, 9-13, 23-25, 27-31, 33-35, 37-38 and 40-41 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,667,023 to Harrell et al. ("Harrell"). The Examiner has objected to claims 8, 26 and 39 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-14, 16, 18-23, 25, 27-34, 36-38 and 40-41 are currently pending of which claims 1, 14, 23 and 32-34 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration of the present Response as currently constituted is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 5-7, 9-13, 23-25, 27-31, 33-35, 37-38 and 40-41 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated Harrell. The applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 8. The applicant has amended claim 23 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 26. The applicant has amended claim 34 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 39. In a like manner, the applicant has amended claim 33 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 8. Accordingly, the applicant believes the basis for rejecting claims 1, 23, 33 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) has been

overcome. All other claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) now depend from an allowable base claim and are therefore also allowable.

Previously Withdrawn Subject Matter

In the previous response, the applicant withdrew claims 3-4, 14-22, 32 and 36 from consideration as being directed to a non-elected species. Claims 3-4 now depend from generic and allowable claim 1. Claim 36 now depends from generic and allowable claim 34. Claim 14 includes the generic and allowable subject matter of claim 1 and adds further limitation. Claims 15-22 depend from allowable claims 14. Claim 32 includes the generic and allowable subject matter of claim 1 and adds further limitation. As generic claims are now allowable, applicant requests the reinstatement and allowance of the previously withdrawn claims 3-4, 14-22, 32 and 36.

Fee Statement

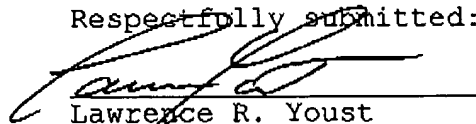
Compared to the initial filing, the number of independent claims has remained the same and the total number of claims has been reduced. Accordingly, Applicant believes no fees are due for the filing of this response. If any fees are due or any overpayments have been made, however, please charge or credit our Deposit Account No. 03-1130.

Conclusion

In view of the forgoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow claims 1, 3-7, 9-14, 16, 18-23, 25, 27-34, 36-38 and 40-41 presented for consideration herein. Accordingly, a favorable action in the form of an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned for any reason that would advance the instant application to issue.

Dated this 17th day of April, 2006.

Respectfully submitted:



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